



BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1919,

By WALTER GARMAN, M.D., EDIN.,

Medical Officer of Health.

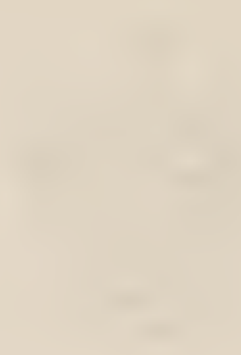
TO WHICH IS APPENDED

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Printed by Order of the Town Council.

WEDNESBURY :

PRINTED BY T. SOUTHERN AND SON, RUSSELL STREET.




Annual Report

Presented to the Board of Directors

STATISTICAL AND GENERAL SANITARY MEMORANDA, 1919.

Area in acres		2,287
Estimated Population (middle of year)	} 30,329 } 31,594 31,594
Population per Acre... ..		13.3
Number of Houses in Borough		6,108
Number of Persons per House		5.17
Birth Rate		22.9
Death Rate		14.0
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births... ..		100
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)		7
Infantile Mortality from Diarrhoea and Enteritis per 1,000 births		9.66
Total Deaths under 5 years of age... ..		114
Death Rate of Children under 5 years of age37
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding Phthisis)		3.6
Death Rate from Phthisis7
Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis02
Zymotic Death Rate		0.6
Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified		297
Rateable Value		£112,038
Id. in the £ yields for General Purposes		£360
General District Rate		6s. 0d. in £
Poor Rate		8s. 8d. in £



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BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

REPORT

Upon the HEALTH OF WEDNESBURY, for the year 1919, by
WALTER GARMAN, M.D., Edin., Medical Officer of Health.

*To the Mayor and Members of the
Wednesbury Town Council.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report upon the health of Wednesbury for the year 1919.

The figures upon which the various rates are based apply only to the civil population, and are independent of the men on military service. These latter are dealt with separately by the Registrar General, and making allowance for the deduction, the population is fixed at 30,329 for the death rate, and 31,594 for the birth rate.

I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The births registered during 1919 numbered 724 (males 395, females 329), which represents a birth-rate of 22.9 per 1,000 of the population. The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths was 297. The deaths from all causes numbered 427, in which are included 89 occurring in Public Institutions outside the town. These figures give a death-rate of 14.07 per 1,000 of the population.

The deaths of children under five years of age numbered 114, or 26 per cent. of the total deaths. Of these 73 were under one year of age, a figure which is at the rate of 100 per 1,000 births.

The following table furnishes an analysis of mortality under five years of age:—

TABLE I.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Premature birth	15	21	12	10	16
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	39	17	36	53	41
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	16	2	19	2	5
Whooping Cough	3	9	15	5	2
Diarrhoea	17	28	9	8	7
Diphtheria	1	3	1	1	1
Other Causes	59	57	54	96	42
	150	137	146	176	114
Percentage of Total Deaths ...	31·8	28·5	35	30·2	26·6

The next table gives the deaths due to Zymotic Disease for the past five years. The number for 1919 was 19, representing a Zymotic death-rate of 0.6 per 1,000.

TABLE II.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Erysipelas	—	—	2	—	2
Puerperal Fever	4	1	—	—	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	1	—
Measles	18	2	20	2	5
Diphtheria	2	5	1	1	1
Diarrhoea	17	28	9	8	7
Whooping Cough	3	9	15	6	3
	47	46	48	18	19
Death rate per 1,000	1·6	1·6	1·6	0·6	0·6

Following is a table showing the Vaccination performed during the year ended June 30th, 1919 :—

TABLE III.

Births Registered.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible.	Dead Un-vaccinated.	Medical Post-ponements.	Certificates sent in of Conscientious Objection.	Removals known.	Removals Unknown.	Unaccounted for.
704	135	1	48	1	514	3	2	2

The Inquests held by the Coroner numbered 15, in which are included 3 deaths due to accident. They were as follows :—

Natural Causes	6
Accident	3
Suicide	5
Acute Alcoholism	1
	—
	15

There were also 9 Inquests held upon Wednesbury residents dying outside the Borough, viz., Eight due to accident, and one to suicide.

TABLE IV.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING
1919 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

DISTRICT OF WEDNESBURY.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected number.	Nett.			Of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number	Rate	Number			Rate	Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number
1912	28108		831 29.2	361 12.8		66	93	111.9	427	15.1	
1913	28108		868 30.8	458 17.3		63	132	152.0	521	18.5	
1914	28910		929 32.1	429 14.8		68	129	136	497	17.1	
1915	28414		780 27.4	392 16.5	1	79	89	114	471	16.5	
1916	27776		787 26	395 17.2	8	85	79	101	480	17.2	
1917	29760		707 21.3	321 14.2	5	94	67	94	415	14.2	
1918	28639		788 20.5	504 17.5	1	77	82	104	581	20.3	
1919	30329		**724 22.9	338 11.1	5	89	73	100	427	*14.07	

* The population here given is exclusive of men on Military Service.

** Calculated upon a population of 31,594.

TABLE V.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1918.

DISTRICT OF WEDNESBURY.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases Notified.						
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65
Diphtheria	17	2	5	10			
Erysipelas	22			1	9	7	5
Scarlet Fever	38		20	12	6		
Malaria	6				6		
Puerperal Fever	2				1	1	
Ophthalmia	16	16					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	38	3	5	10	8	10	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	8	5	2	1			
Measles and German Measles	86	25	20	30	11		
Pneumonia	40	2	5	5	20	8	
Influenza Pneumonia	24		2	2	18	2	
Totals	297	53	59	71	79	28	7

Isolation Hospital.—Wednesbury Isolation Hospital, Dangerfield Lane.

Total Available Beds.—Twenty-two.

Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated.—One.

TABLE VI.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1919.

DISTRICT OF WEDNESBURY.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (Civilians only).	Males.	Females.
All Causes	228	199
Enteric Fever		
Small-pox		
Measles	1	4
Scarlet fever		
Whooping cough	1	2
Diphtheria and croup		1
Influenza	11	11
Erysipelas	1	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	12	11
Tubercular meningitis		2
Other tubercular diseases	3	4
Cancer, malignant disease	17	13
Rheumatic fever		1
Meningitis		1
Organic heart disease	14	12
Bronchitis	31	23
Pneumonia (all forms)	31	21
Other respiratory diseases	3	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	4	3
Appendicitis and typhitis	1	1
Cirrhosis of liver		
Alcoholism	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's disease	10	6
Puerperal fever		1
Parturition, apart from puerperal fever		3
Congenital debility, etc.	16	14
Violence, apart from suicide	6	4
Suicide	5	1
Other defined diseases	60	55
Causes ill defined or unknown		2
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age Total	45	28
(Illegitimate)	3	2
TOTAL BIRTHS	395	329
Legitimate	384	318
Illegitimate	11	11

TABLE VII.

DISTRICT OF WEDNESBURY.

INFANT LE MORTALITY, 1918. Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
ALL CAUSES	19	4	5	1	29	14	7	13	10	73
Certified										
Uncertified										
Measles... ..						1			1	1
Whooping Cough										1
Tubercular Meningitis							1			1
Other Tubercular diseases									1	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)									1	1
Convulsions			1		1		1			3
Bronchitis		1	1		2	2	1	2	2	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	1				1	1	2	7	2	13
Diarrhoea and Enteritis						2	1	1	2	6
Premature Birth	11	1			12	4				16
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	6		2		8	3	1		2	14
Other causes	1	2	1	1	5	1		2		8
TOTALS	19	4	5	1	29	14	7	12	11	73

TABLE VIII.

For comparison the statistics with regard to Wednesbury and England and Wales are given in the following table:—

	Rate per 1,000 of the population.		Rate per 1,000 Births
	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Deaths under one year
England and Wales	18·5	13 8	89
96 Great Towns, including London, population exceeding 50,000	19·0	13 8	93
148 smaller towns. Population 20,000-50,000	18·3	12·6	90
London	18·3	13 4	85
Wednesbury, population 31,594...	22·9	14·0	73

From the foregoing figures, the Council will be enabled to judge of the health of the town during the year.

Some reference may be expected to the Influenza epidemic of last year, which had not entirely subsided in December. As a matter of fact it persisted well into the first quarter of 1919, during which it caused 17 deaths. The disease then ceased to be epidemic, but never quite disappeared. During the second quarter there was one death, with two deaths in both the third and fourth quarters. The disease may at present be regarded as endemic, and with a tendency to occasional epidemic development.

Apart from the prevalence of the disease, there has been a marked mitigation of its type with a corresponding fall in the mortality average.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Under this heading there is little or nothing to report. The prohibitive cost of building materials, together with the scarcity of labour persisted, and practically all sanitary improvements were retarded.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER GARMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

To the Mayor and Members of the Wednesbury Town Council.

Gentlemen,—

INTRODUCTION.

I beg to submit my Thirteenth Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Wednesbury, viz., for the year ended 31st December, 1919.

The Report is again condensed, only indispensable information being included.

The general sanitary work has been retarded by the prohibitive cost of building materials and the scarcity of labour, which has prevented many sanitary improvements from being carried out, particularly with regard to privies and ashpits.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

Over 3,100 visits and inspections have been made, including house-to-house inspections, and investigation of complaints, and 1,700 re-inspections were made during the time the work was in progress. A large number of defects were discovered, and measures were taken as far as possible to remedy the defects. The sanitary improvements resulting therefrom are set out in table 3.

NOTICES SERVED.

Two hundred and six preliminary or intimation notices have been served. A large number of letters were also sent to owners and occupiers, requesting them to carry out certain sanitary improvements. Sixty-eight Statutory notices were served by order of the Council. Particulars of the notices are set out in table 2. Many interviews have in addition taken place at the office or on the properties with owners, agents or builders.

DRAIN TESTING, Etc.

Thirteen tests were made of the drains and sanitary fittings of 7 premises, comprising thirteen dwelling houses and two works.

PRIVY AND WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 46 privies and 28 middens were abolished, and re-placed with 99 water closets and portable receptacles for the house refuse as follows :—45 privies converted into water closets, 1 additional water closet, 2 privies re-built and converted into water closets, and 42 additional water closets were provided in connection with factories and workshops.

The following Table I. gives the number of sanitary conveniences in the Borough, and particulars of the work of abolishing the privies and ashpits, and the substitution of water closets and portable galvanised iron dust bins.

TABLE I.
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Year	No. of Houses in the Borough.	Closet Accommodation.				Ashpit Accommodation.				Conversion of Privies into Water Closets.						Total
		No. of Privies.		No. of Water Closets.		Total Number of Closets.	No. of Privy Middens	No. of Dry Ashpits	No. of Dust Bins	Total No. of Receptacles for Storage of Ashes	No. of Houses dealt with	Conversion of Privies into W.c.s	Closets re-built and converted into W.c.s	Additional Water Closets provided	W.c.s provided in connection with Factories and Workshops	
		Fixed Receptacles.	Movable Receptacles.	Total	Fresh Water Closets.											
1911	5777	3229	20	3249	1500	5049	1500	350	1000	2850	272	162	36	2	9	209
1912	5812	3057	20	3077	1759	5132	1407	350	1582	3339	235	149	20	13	44	226
1913	5867	2780	20	2800	2038	5130	1262	350	1700	3312	362	228	36	2	8	274
1914	5900	2616	20	2636	2249	5170	1170	350	1991	3491	212	139	21	11	7	178
1915	5919	2466	20	2486	2437	5208	1098	350	2129	3577	190	131	12	4	17	164
1916	5895	2380	20	2400	2567	5252	1066	350	2189	3605	96	60	13	2	57	132
1917	5919	2363	20	2383	2614	5282	1058	350	2225	3633	20	12	1	—	34	47
1918	6108	2338	20	2358	2648	5291	1045	350	2225	3620	25	19	7	—	8	34
1919	6108	2292	20	2312	2738	5335	1017	350	2255	3622	53	45	2	1	42	90
Average											163	103	17	4	25	148

YARDS AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES USED IN COMMON.

Many occupiers pay little attention to the yards, approaches to, and the walls, floors, seats and fittings of the sanitary conveniences, and every opportunity has been taken of impressing upon the tenants their responsibility of keeping their premises in a sanitary state.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Having regard to the overcrowded state of many of the houses, the high prices of materials, and the labour difficulty, it was not deemed desirable to make more than 48 formal representations under the Housing, etc., Acts.

The following is a summary of the results of action taken :—

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS, 1990-1919.

Houses built during the year	→
Houses represented as unfit for human habitation	38
Houses represented for demolition	10
Thoroughly repaired	—
Closed	—
Demolished	3
No. under repair... ..	5
Under consideration pending lapse of notice... ..	29

Schemes respecting unhealthy areas :—

No. of schemes	1
No. of houses... ..	11

The Housing Schemes for the provision of 256 new houses are well in hand, and when these are provided, it may be possible to deal in some degree with the existing houses that cannot, for various reasons, be made reasonably fit for human habitation.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The factories, workshops and outworkers' premises have been periodically visited, and the regulations respecting cleanliness, ven-

tilation, etc., have been carried out. Sixteen notices were received from the Home Office Inspectors respecting defects at factories and workshops, which were remediable under the Public Health Acts. In several instances sanitary work of some magnitude was executed in order to comply with the notices served.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The cases of infectious disease notified were visited and re-visited from time to time during the progress of the disease. Printed and verbal instructions were given for preventing the spread of the disease, and the necessary disinfection was carried out at the termination of the disease.

INSPECTION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLIES.

There are now 13 slaughterhouses on the register, four of which are subject to annual licence. The slaughterhouses have been periodically visited. The vendors in several cases have voluntarily destroyed food when their attention was called to its unwholesome condition.

Periodical visits have also been made to butchers, fish, game, poultry and greengrocer's shops. The food exposed for sale was, with few exceptions, of fair quality.

HORSE AMBULANCE.

Sixty-four persons, 52 suffering from illness and 12 from accident, were removed in the ambulance. The total amount received for the hire of the ambulance was £27 7s. 0d.

CLEANSING AND THE REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The work of the removal of house refuse, was, until 30th September, 1919, carried out by the Contractor, but since that date, the work has been carried out by direct labour, viz., by the Council's own workmen and carts. The work of removing the refuse from the dust bins was in a very disorganised state, but it is hoped that shortly the work will be carried out in a more efficient manner, and there will be little cause for complaint.

To improve the general sanitary condition of the Borough, the Town Council have adopted a system of removing house refuse weekly from all premises provided with dust bins. For the convenience of the Public, the Town Council have arranged to supply the standard galvanized iron dust bins as cheaply as possible.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT TOPPING, ASSOC. ROYAL SAN. INST.,

Sanitary Inspector,

Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.

TABLE II.

NOTICES SERVED AND NUMBER OF HOUSES IN
CONNECTION WITH NOTICES.

	Preliminary Notices.		Statutory Notices.	
	Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.	Notices served.	Houses in connection with Notices.
Filthy and dilapidated houses	31	129	14	109
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings... ..	21	89	3	19
Defective paving and surface channels ..	1	1	—	—
Defective eaves and downspouting.	2	4	—	—
Insufficient drainage	—	—	1	2
Foul, untrapped, or defective drainage ..	2	3	—	—
Choked drainage and water closets	36	142	1	5
Insufficient closet accommodation	4	11	—	—
Insufficient accomodation for the storage of ashes, etc.	36	100	6	50
Foul, wet, open, and dilapidated privy- middens	50	167	7	33
Defective water closet connections..	7	11	2	21
Fouling of sanitary conveniences used in common	—	—	8	8
Overcrowded houses or rooms	2	2	1	1
Animals improperly kept	3	4	2	2
Offensive accumulations	—	—	1	1
Water in cellars	3	7	—	—
Houses unfit for habitation	3	16	5	33
Polluted wells	—	—	—	—
Dangerous wells or cisterns	1	8	—	—
Insufficient water supply	1	8	1	7
Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops not kept in accordance with regulations	1	1	1	1
Bakehouses not kept in conformity with Act	—	—	—	—
Factories and workshops do.	6	—	14	—
Common lodging houses do.	—	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	—	—	1	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—
Total	206	573	68	196

TABLE III.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN DISTRICT
IN PURSUANCE OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND
NOTICES SERVED.

Interior of Houses—

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed... ..	—
Houses in which repairs to plastering, brickwork or wood- work have been carried out	—
Flooded cellars drained	2

Exterior of Houses—

Defective roofs made watertight	5
Houses without eaves, spouting, or with choked or defective spouting—new spouting provided, or existing spout- ing cleansed and repaired... ..	17
Dangerous chimneys repaired	3
New earthenware sinks provided in lieu of old brick sinks	4

Yards and Outbuildings—

Surface paving in yards provided, renewed or repaired ...	5
Filthy and dilapidated outbuildings cleansed and repaired	9

Drainage—

Absence of or insufficient drainage. Premises drained and connected to sewer	1
Surface channels abolished and stoneware pipe drains provided	3
Defective drains re-laid or repaired	3
Number of manhole inspection chambers provided to drainage systems	34
Foul untrapped drains. Stoneware gully traps fixed	2
Additional gullies fixed	36
Choked drains opened and cleansed	21

Privies, Water Closets, and Ashpits—

Privies abolished	46
Middens abolished	28
Water closets with flush cisterns substituted for privies ...	45
Closets re-built and converted into water closets	2
Dilapidated privies and ashpits repaired, covered over and ventilated	3
Percolations of fæcal matter from privies. Privies, etc., cemented	2
Galvanised dust bins provided in lieu of ashpits	30
Additional dust bins provided	133
Middens abolished and converted into dry ashpits	4
Dry ashpits abolished	6
Choked water closets opened and cleansed	29
Defective W.C. connections made good	11
Insufficient supply of water to W.C.'s. Flush improved...	1

Water Supply—

Houses without a sufficient supply of drinking water	2
Stand pipes abolished	5
Water taps fixed in houses or brewhouses	4

Keeping of Animals and Offensive Accumulations—

Nuisances from the keeping of swine abated	1
Offensive accumulations removed from premises	2
Fowls or other poultry kept so as to be a nuisance	3

Overcrowding—

Houses overcrowded. Numbers reduced	2
--	---

Miscellaneous—

Filthy yards and sanitary conveniences and approaches thereto cleaned by occupiers	12
---	----

Housing of the Working Classes Act—

Houses unfit for habitation demolished	3
---	---

Dairies and Cowsheds—

New Cowsheds provided	1
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	2
Dairy accommodation provided or improved	3

Factories and Workshops—

Workshops or workrooms cleansed	1
Insufficient closet accommodation. Water closets provided	16
Miscellaneous sanitary improvements	3

Common Lodging Houses—

Houses cleansed	1
------------------------	---

Total	395
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